

# Antics

222 A publication of the  
Alabama Chess Federation Inc.

Fall 2007

2007  
State Champion  
Scott Varogona



Congratulations  
to all our winners!

## 2007 ALABAMA STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP by Caesar Lawrence, Montgomery Chess Club

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama State Chess Championship (ASCC) was held at the Lexington Hotel in Montgomery over three days on Labor Day weekend (Aug 31-Sept 2). The dual schedule, 6-round Swiss tournament was organized and directed by Caesar Lawrence. James Garner designed the Trophy and Score Sheet Booklet. 53 players (including one titled player) competed; 35 played in the open section and 18 played in the reserve section.

Many thanks are due the Lexington Hotel's management. The General Manager, Jason Headley, and the Sales Director, Mary Ann Teeter (as well as "Ms. Cheryl") helped our officials set up and arrange the rooms. We are also grateful to the local print and television news media for their coverage; our thanks go to Marty Roney and Julie Bennett (**Montgomery Advertiser**) and Will Raines (**WSFA – NBC 12 News**). Montgomery is *the* place to play chess.

- OPEN SECTION:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: (each with 5 points)  
 \* **Scott Varogona** (Hoover, AL)  
**IM Stephen Muhammad** (Columbus, GA)  
**Bradley Denton** (Hernando, MS)  
 \***2007 Alabama Champion**  
 Class A: (each with 3.5 points)  
 \* **Keenan Olson** (Mobile)  
**Calvin Bomar** (Trussville)  
**Frank Johnson** (Atlanta, GA)  
 \**awarded the Best Class A trophy on tiebreaks*  
 Under 1800: (each with 3.5 points)  
 \* **Yan Zhu** (Hoover)  
**Caesar Lawrence** (Calera)  
**Patrick Alford** (Tuscaloosa)  
 \**awarded the Best Under 1800 trophy on tiebreaks*



Round 3 action on the top boards



Caesar Lawrence  
& Yan Zhu

- RESERVE SECTION:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place:  
**Ryan Brown** (Ohatchee) 5.5 points  
**2007 Alabama Reserve Champion**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: (each with 4 points)  
**Caleb Jaquish** (Montgomery)  
**Stephen Adams** (Birmingham) *awarded the Class D trophy*  
**Douglas Strout** (Montgomery) *awarded the U1200 trophy*  
**Qianjun Li** (Birmingham) 3.5 points *awarded the Under 1200 Prize*



Ryan  
Brown



Caleb  
Jaquish

Stephen  
Adams



Douglas  
Strout

Qianjun Li



Photos by Matt Adams

*Antics*

is published quarterly by the Alabama Chess Federation, Inc. (ACF Inc.), an organization dedicated to promoting chess in Alabama.

***About the***

**Alabama Chess Federation Inc.  
(ACF Inc.)**

- The USCF state affiliate for AL
- Organizes rated tournaments
- Promotes chess to benefit all players
- Supports scholastic chess programs
- Bylaws and other significant ACF documents available online
- Staffed by dedicated volunteers
- Annual dues: Individual \$10.00  
Scholastic \$10.00  
Affiliate \$15.00
- For more information about ACF activities, how to join or renew, go to [www.alabamachess.com](http://www.alabamachess.com).

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear ACF Inc. Members,

It is an honor to have been elected ACF Inc. President by such a large margin at the September 2007 meeting. I entered office with many goals I hope to achieve over the course of my term. The Executive Board has been teleconferencing regularly and we are all pleased with our progress to date. Our most recent actions include:

- Adoption of a bidding process for the upcoming 2008 Class Championship and specific guidelines (using an example bid I drafted). See website for details.
- Upgrades to the ACF website. I am sure you will all appreciate the improvements as they are implemented by our webmaster over the next few months.
- Approval of various governing policies. This will help structure events directly affiliated with the ACF Inc.
- Organization of a Grand Prix.

A few weeks ago I went to the board and said, "I want us to organize a Grand Prix, does anyone object?" No one did, so the next day I submitted an example flier for approval, hammered out a few details based on great ideas from the board, entered into negotiations with three different possible playing sites, and have set a date of May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Each officer has his own set of tasks for advertising this event to the fullest.

Sig's Chess has offered a \$250 scholarship and a \$25 Best Game Award for this Grand Prix event, and TeachMeChess, my organization in Mobile, has donated a \$25 Fastest Win Prize. Any individual or entity who would like their club or business to be associated with this event and advertised on our flier and in the opening announcements at the event is encouraged to donate a \$25 special prize. It could be anything from a Longest Drive Prize to a Biggest Upset Prize.

Please note that our next official business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Chess Championship (see flier) on Sunday, January 13, 2008. Meeting agenda will be posted on the website, and this meeting will not be taking the place of the regular one held alongside the Queen of Hearts.

Other unfortunate business must now be announced. Our elected editor, Jim Weiner, resigned Dec. 12, 2007, passing current works on the fall edition of the adult antics to me the next day. The Executive Board has appointed Brent Inman to the position of editor for the remainder of this fiscal year.

We apologize for the delay of your Fall 2007 Antics, and absence of the Fall 2007 Chess Kids. Expect future publications to be on schedule, and many thanks to Brent for taking over this responsibility.

I look forward to making my term memorable!

Sincerely,  
Keenan C. Olson  
ACF Inc. President

## TOP RANKED ALABAMA PLAYERS

(Active in last 12 months)

Rank / Name	Rank / Name
1 Bill Melvin 2200	31 Stephen B Smith 1805
2 Matthew V Puckett 2188	33 Kenneth W Goodman 1798
3 Joseph H Jurjevich 2143	33 Louis S De Fiore 1796
4 Scott Varagona 2121	34 Gregory V Funaro 1788
5 Edward L Labate Jr 2100	35 James D Dreading 1779
6 Gerald A Larson 2097	36 Frank Greiner 1778
7 Brent H Inman 2089	37 Kenneth Sloan 1758
8 Tom J Denton 2079	38 Patrick R Alford 1755
9 Charles L Meidinger 2016	39 Harry W Jones 1750
10 Ozgur Aktunc 2013	40 Corbin W Holland 1749
11 Bryan Tillis 1999	41 Rhodes Peele 1742
12 Ricky L Pierson 1955	42 James R Gipson 1740
13 Tim Bond 1953	43 Jerald R McGowin 1733
14 Will T Stevenson 1948	44 James Michael Vickers 1723
15 Terrence W Edinburg 1929	45 Andrew A Hallila 1720
16 John T Russell 1921	46 Walter F Malmberg 1718
17 Ray Downs 1913	47 William R Savoie 1713
18 Keenan Olson 1909	48 Joshua T McClellan 1704
19 Jeff S Story 1883	49 Yan Zhu 1700
20 Giles D'Souza 1882	50 Christopher J Lasky 1697
21 Calvin Bomar 1877	51 Alex Weiner 1693
22 Luke Hellwig 1870	52 Jeffrey Rizzo 1672
23 Alan Todd 1861	53 Stanley Patrick 1670
24 Caesar W Lawrence 1847	54 Jeffrey Byrd 1664
25 Michael D Lawson 1832	55 Chuck E Singleton 1656
26 James P Scheuermann 1827	56 Curtis T Barkley 1653
27 Thomas H Lawry 1818	57 Shannon Israel 1623
28 David Hayes 1816	58 Gerald A Wheeler 1622
29 Steffen Piechot 1816	59 Joseph Raymond Chaffee 1617
30 John Daugherty 1808	60 William D Worley 1617

## ALABAMA ONLINE

### CHESS LEAGUE

by Ray Downs

Proposals for online competition between Alabama residents (both individual and club tournaments) have been put forward on the ACF public forum recently.

This would be a good way to involve those already active in OTB tournament chess as well as to stimulate chess play in those not currently involved in competitions for whatever reason.

On-line play might help reconnect formerly active players to their clubs as well as generate new club members. It would overcome barriers created by distance or physical limitations. Even if club attendance in person is impossible, chess players could still enjoy representing their club on-line.

Granted, there are numerous on-line chess servers (which many of us use to play chess on a regular basis). However, there is no organized online competition set aside specifically for Alabama's chess players.

To pursue this, we have selected a chess server. The "Free Internet Chess Server" (FICS) seems more than adequate, and offers free team accounts suitable for Alabama's needs.

If enough interest is shown, we will create a new avenue for promoting chess in Alabama—but it will require *your response* if we are to proceed further.

To represent a team on-line, you'll first need to register at FICS, select an

"FICS handle" and acquire an online rating by playing some games. Acquaint yourself with the FICS interface and consoles (similar to ICC's) by going to <http://www.freechess.org/Help/HelpFiles/team.html> to access the FICS website help files:

If you are a club member already, ask its leadership to add itself to the list of Alabama on-line teams by e-mailing their specifics. Club member *or not*, send your name, street address, FICS handle and the name of your Alabama chess club (if any) to: [NimzoRevenge@gmail.com](mailto:NimzoRevenge@gmail.com).

Don't delay players! A timely response is necessary to continue this program's launch!

## ANNOTATED GAMES FROM THE 2007 ALABAMA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**I Guess I Did *Something* Right...**  
by Scott Varagona

**Varagona, S — Muhammad, S**  
**(2098) (2421)**  
**2007 ASCC (3)**

Somehow, I found that after the championship was over, I couldn't believe I had really won. How did it happen? Every game was a violent fight, and my play was far from flawless; still, I got some lucky breaks at a few crucial moments, and I never gave up. Other than that—well, I guess I must've done *something* right: I finished with 5 points, a full point ahead of my in-state rivals, and tied for first. However, the following game will show just how easily my tournament *could* have ended in disaster. Lady Caissa is fickle indeed! ♀

Winning my first two games earned me a seat across from IM Stephen Muhammad. I had waited years to play White against him; finally, I could hit his Dutch Defense with my best shot!

**1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6**  
**3.Nc3 e6 4.e3!?**



This restrained approach is a favorite of mine. White intends a slow build-up with Bd3, Nge2, f2-f3, and eventually e3-e4.

**4...d5 5.Bd3 c6**  
**6.Nge2 Bd6 7.f3 0-0**  
**8.Qc2 dxc4!**

A good decision. After the routine 8...Nbd7?! 9.Bd2 and 10.O-O-O, White would soon play e3-e4 and get a space advantage. Black needs quick central counter play, so the text sets up a Semi-Slav-style plan of b7-b5 and (someday) e6-e5.

**9.Bxc4 b5 10.Bd3 Nbd7**  
**11.e4?!**



I failed to see the danger in this. Better is 11.Bd2, with a sharp game ahead.

**11...e5!**

He's not an IM for nothing. I completely missed this pawn sacrifice. My king had felt so cozy up until now...

**12.exf5 exd4 13.Nxd4 Ne5**  
**14.Be2 Bc5**

Black's compensation is frighteningly obvious. White would like to trade with 15. Ne6, but 15...Bxe6 16.fxe6 ♖d4! is just too ugly.

**15.Nb3! Bb6 16.Bf4 Re8**  
**17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Bg3 Nh5**

Despite the danger to my king, I've been holding my own against Muhammad... until now.

**19.Qe4??**

A daring, risky, and simply bad move. At first I thought the queen was safe, but the look on Stephen's face immediately told me otherwise! Best was Fritz's 19.♘d4!, with a roughly equal position.



**19...Nxc3! 20.hxg3 Nd3+!**

Uh-oh...looks like 21.Qxd3 Bxc3+ 22.Kf1 Qf2 mates or 22.Kd2 Rd8 wins the queen. Time to make the best of a bad situation:

**21.Rxd3!**

That forces Black to repair my pawn structure (21...♗xe4 22.fxe4!), after which the e4 & f5 pawns could become thorns in his side. Who knows: with the open h-file, I might even get a kingside attack!

**21. ...Qxc3+?!**

Black is still winning, but this move helps White by clearing the d3-rook's path to the h-file. The simple 21...Rxe4! 22. fxe4 b4! 23.Nd1 Qe5 and ...Ba6 would squelch White's counter.

**22.Kd1 Rxe4 23.fxe4 Qe5**

*Continued on next page...*



Muhammad told me after the game that this was where Black really started to go wrong. Yet the computer seems to think the alternative, 23...Bxg2, makes it harder for Black to win. Either way, it is Black's *next* move that really deserves the blame.

**24.Nd2!?**

I'm still hoping for the best. If I can get the knight kingside to support g2-g4-g5, something awesome might happen...

**24...Ba6?**

Now the game gets totally out of hand. The logical follow-up to Black's previous play is: 24...b4! 25.Nf3 Qc7 26.Na4 Ba6, where Black deservedly wins.

**25.Rdh3 h6 26.Nf3 Rd8+**  
**27.Kc2 Kc5 28.a3 Bc8**  
**29.g4!**



My kingside build-up looks daunting, but so does Black's plan of a7-a5 and b5-b4. I couldn't find a clear win for White *or* Black. Still, I knew I'd already been let off the hook and I didn't feel like pressing my luck, so I offered a

draw. After a few minutes of thought, Muhammad accepted (1/2-1/2), only to tell me he thought I was winning!

And so began the most enjoyable post-mortem I have ever experienced. The variations we examined were all long, double-edged, and convoluted, but we both came to the same conclusion: although Black is somewhat better, White has enough counter play to draw. Were we right?

In each of the lines we looked at, White was able to play g4-g5 and harass Black's king. If I recall, after 29...a5 30.Kb1 Bc7 31.g5, Stephen and I considered only the insane results of 31...hxg5 and 31...b4. However, the computer's 31...Bxf5!! puts a whole new spin on it: Black sacrifices material to break White's attack and expose White's king. Here's the most dazzling follow-up:

32.exf5 b4  
 (...Qxf5?!+ 33.Ka1 b4 34.Nb1!  
 helps White protect his king)  
 33.gxh6!?  
 (33.Nh4 bxc3 34.Rxc3 Qd4 is  
 quieter, but Black still has the  
 advantage)  
 33...bxc3! 34.h7+ Kh8  
 35.Nh4 c2+ 36.Ka2 Rd6!



Despite the danger to his boxed-in king, Black is winning. 37.Ng6+ (37.Rc1 meets a similar fate.) 37...Rxc3 38.fxc3 Qd5+!  
 39.Ka1 Qg2 40.Bd3 Be5!  
 41.Bxc2 Qxc2 42.Rb1 Qxc6 (Fritz). Black's queen and bishop

are far more powerful than the rooks—eventually eliminating the h-pawn to win the ending.

Thus, I believe that (with impeccable play!) Black would have won.

1/2 - 1/2

**Melvin, B – Varagona, S**  
 (2208) (2098)  
 2007 ASCC (4)

I leave you with my best game of the tournament, my fourth round win against Bill Melvin. As I said, my play in this championship was far from flawless; however, *this* particular game seemed to “flow” almost perfectly. It has to be one of the greatest games of my life.

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 d5**  
**3.Bb2 c5 4.e3 Nc6**  
**5.c4?!**



Strangely, this move clashes with White's development scheme and gives Black an opening initiative. Best is 5.Bb5, when Nf3-e5 and f2-f4 transposes to a Bird's Opening.

*Continued on next page...*

**5...d4! 6.exd4 cxd4**  
**7.g3 e5 8.d3 Bf5**  
**9.Nh4?!**

White is worried about his d3-pawn. If 9.Bg2? then 9...Bb4+! (Fritz), but 9.a3!? was worth considering.

**9...Bg4 10.Be2 Bh3**  
**11.Bf1 Qd7 12.Bxh3 Qxh3**

13.Qf3 Bb4+ 14.Nd2 0-0 15.0-0 a5



16.a4?

Essentially, this was the losing move. Here was White's last chance to trade queens by 16.Qf5! Qxf5 17.Nxf5 g6 18.Nh4, with a slightly inferior ending. Now, Black's pieces swarm over the queenside, and the rest of the game speaks for itself.

16...Qd7! 17.Qf5 Qd6 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 Bc3! 20.Qe2 f5 21.Nf3 Ra6 22.Kb1 Rb6 23.Qc2 Nb4 24.Qc1



24...Nxd3! 25.Rxd3 Rxb3 26.Rd2 Bxb2 27.Rxb2 Rxf3 28.Qd2 Rc3 29.Rd1 Qc6 30.Qe2 Re8 31.Rb5 Rxc4 32.Qa2 Kh8 33.Qd2 h6 34.Qxa5 Qe4+ 35.Kb2 Qc2+



**36. White Resigns (0-1).**

The other game I wanted to annotate—my marathon last-round game with defending co-champion Calvin Bomar—is a whopper, and would take up a whole article on its own. So, I will save that one for next time.

To sum it up, as proud as I am of my tournament victory, I must admit that I had a bit of luck, too. So, let me just say that it is a privilege to be the Alabama State Champion once again.

As always, many thanks to TD Caesar Lawrence and the Montgomery Chess Club for organizing and hosting this wonderful tournament, as well as to all the participants for attending. —Scott Varagona

**0-1**



Strout, DL – Melvin, M  
(1237) (1616)  
2007 ASCC  
Reserve Section, Round 4  
[C68]

*Annotated by Douglas L. Strout*

OK, at this stage of the tournament, I'm 2.0/2 and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place with a bunch of other folks. My optimism suddenly falters when I discover that my Round 4 match is Miles Melvin, top seeded in the reserve section. Great. The scouting report from Thomas Gilbreath included the fact that Miles does not accept draws. This was disconcerting because I frequently offer draws to players rated higher than myself, as when I played Thomas and Matt (Bingham) at the Chris Bond Memorial last August.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

Miles chooses to play the Ruy Lopez as Black. OK by me, since

**3...a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6**

...playing the exchange variation.

**5.h3** ...removing the Bg4 pin.

**5...Bd6** ...protecting e5.

**6.d3** ...reinforcing pawn structure.

This opening is basically a by the numbers Ruy Lopez, and I make it to middle game in good shape.

**6...Nf6 7.Nc3**

...development by both sides.

**7...Be6 8.Ng5**

This is part of a change in strategy as I develop more of an appreciation for the bishop. I used to trade bishops for knights because it was easy. Now I reverse that philosophy and pursue a trade of a knight for a bishop. If this exchange is successful, it also increases my queen's access kingside.

**8...Qd7 9.Nxe6** (thank you)

**9...Qxe6** Exchange complete.

*Continued on next page...*

**10.0-0** With the light square bishop gone, Miles has insufficient power to bring an attack kingside, so I can castle to safety.



**10...Bc5 11.Be3**

I've been waiting to make this move. It's a prepared feature of my Ruy Lopez, but Miles is just now getting around to Bc5, so I held off Be3 until now.

**11...Bxe3 12.fxe3**

...bishop trade. No problem. Also, I have the open f-file with a rook already posted.

**12...0-0-0 13.Qf3 Rd6**

...reinforcing the knight at f6.

**14.Qf5** ...but the knight was not the target—I'm going after the queen.

**14...Rhd8 15.Qxe6+ Rxe6**

...queen trade accepted with gratitude.

**16.Rf2 Rd7 17.Raf1**

...consolidating my power.

**17...Kd8 18.Na4**

I had eyed a fork at c5, but I should have realized a Class B player wouldn't fall for that one. I might have pushed g4 with an eye on pushing g5 (to drive his knight off f6 and thus attack f7).

**18...b6 19.Nc3 Ke8**

Now he has reinforced f7.

**20.Ne2 c5**

Looks like the action is moving to the d-file... better get some resources over there.

**21.Ng3 b5 22.Rd1 c4**

**23.Rfd2 cxd3 24.cxd3**

I could have pushed the rook issue by Rxd3 here, but I wanted to avoid trapping my knight on g3 (babysitting e4).

**24...g6 25.Kf2 Red6**

...power buildup on d-file, exchanges are on the horizon.

**26.d4 Ng8**

His time spent repositioning his knight left time available for me to set up my endgame.

**27.Ke2** ...reinforcing the rooks for an exchange.

**27. ...f6 28.dxe5 fxe5**

...isolating his e-pawn and my e-double. The e-pawn double turns



out to be a good controller of space in the center.

**29.Rd5** Nevertheless, I attempt to undouble my pawns.

**29...Kf7** He doesn't bite, preferring to reposition for endgame.

**30.Rxd6** I start the attack and offer a draw. As I was warned, Miles declined, and I have tipped my hand. He knows I am playing for a draw now, but knowing it is not the same as doing something about it.

**30. ...Rxd6 31.Rxd6**

...I continue the attack.

**31...cxd6 32.Kd3 Ke6**

...endgame positioning by both sides.

**33.Ne2 Ne7 34.Nc3**

The two knights are faced off at d5, which is about to become a focal point.

**34...h6** This looks like a waiting move to me.

**35.b4** I added this to my repertoire after Matt Bingham hit me with it to stop my pawn advance at the Chris Bond. Black's queenside pawns are

stopped cold now. Remember, I'm not playing to win.

**35. ...g5 36.g3**

Both sides are just killing time.

**36. ...g4 37.h4**

Kingside is locked up...queenside locked up previously... Lock up the center and it's over.

**37. ...d5 38.Nxd5 Nxd5**

**39.exd5+ Kxd5 40.e4+**

...and there is the lock on the center. Draw is coming soon.

**40...Kc6 41.Kc3 Kb6**

**42.a3 a5** If I bxa5 here, he will Kxa5 and possibly gain entry into my position... not going to happen.

**43.Kb3 a4+ 44.Kc3 Kc6**

**45.Kd3**



The board is partitioned perfectly, and neither king can advance. 1/2-1/2 A dead drawn position, and my third draw this year (rookie year, remember) against 1600+ rated competition.

2.5/3 is a great start to my championship run.

1/2 - 1/2

**SPACE CITY OPEN Octo**

*by Jerry Whee*

This year the Huntsville Chess Club (HCC) held its annual Space City Open at the Knights of Columbus hall in Huntsville. 110 players participated; 56 in the scholastic USCF Class G, H, I, J/Unrated (single day) event and 54 in the two-day Open, Reserve (U1600) and Novice (U1200) sections.

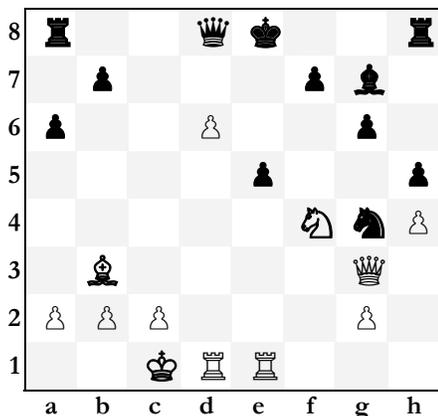
David Hayes was Chief TD, assisted by Walter Malmberg, Bert

Gower, Gerald Wheeler, Don Wade, Chris Hayes, Dana Hayes, Barbara Bozeman, and many helpful parents.

HCC experimented with formats at this year's tournament:

- A Novice section was added to attract new adult players and offer the challenge of a two-day event to scholastic players.
- The Scholastic tournament was divided into Class sections as opposed to Grade divisions.

**Sutovsky,E (2660) - Azmaiparashvili,Z (2676)**  
FIDE GP Moscow, 01.06.2002



White to play

It happened that there were only two scholastic entrants in the Class E section. Accepting the challenge, Joe Stafford and Einaam Alim agreed to move up to the 2-day Novice Section and play against adults as well as other scholastic players. Joe's decision led to a 5.0 score and a \$150 payday.

The scholastic Class division "experiment" received favorable responses. In recent years, our scholastic one-day event has been invitation-only, limited to those attending our weekly Friday night club meetings. Although advance notice of the scholastic event was intentionally restricted (to avoid being overwhelmed by too many players), we actually had about the same number of participants.

To comment on the SCO, please send an e-mail to [wheelgaw@hotmail.com](mailto:wheelgaw@hotmail.com).

**NEW PUZZLES FROM CHESSBASE (www.chessbase.com)**

←Black, under considerable pressure, has just retreated his queen from e7 to d8...leading to immediate demolition by the Israeli GM Sutovsky.

With a piece for three → pawns, Alexey Dreev chose a spectacular way to defeat his Bulgarian opponent

**OPEN Winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4.0 pts (3-way tie)  
Todd Andrews, Peter Bereolos, & Bradley Denton  
1<sup>st</sup> A: 3.5 pts Gainer Phay  
2<sup>nd</sup> A: 3.0 pts (tie)  
James Wu & Will Stevenson  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> B: 3.0 pts (tie)  
Joshua Wolff & Bin Li

**RESERVE (U1600) Winners**

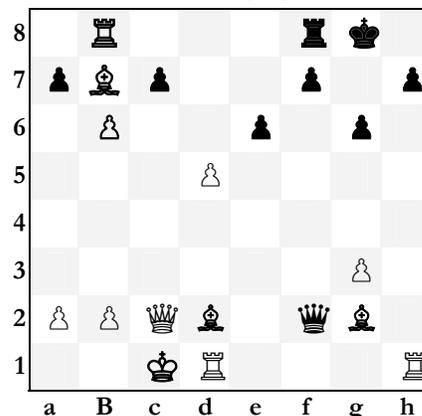
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4.5 pts Richard DeCredico;  
2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 3.5 pts  
Eleanor Barkley\* & Thomas Gilbreath  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> D: 3.0 pts (tie)  
Dennis Dergunov & Stephen Adams  
3<sup>rd</sup> D: 2.5 pts Erick Lorinc

**NOVICE (U1200) Winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 5.0 pts Joseph Stafford.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 4.0 pts Michael DeHaye  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place/1<sup>st</sup> F: 3.0 pts (3-way tie)  
Tom Wright, Charles Li & Angela Li  
Unrated 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Robert Mason  
\* Eleanor's 3.5 point finish made her Alabama's highest USCF-rated woman

**Dreev,A (2677) - Georgiev,K (2654)**

FIDE GP Moscow (1.2), 01.06.2002



White to play

How to Take Advantage of the Grob Hook

Kenneth Sloan demonstrates how simple development, control of the center and a flank attack can demolish Grob's attack—before it gets started...

17.fag7 duc

**Sloan, Sam (1950) - Sloan, Kenneth (1750)**  
US Open Cherry Hill, NJ (6), 02.08.2007  
**Grob's Attack [A00]**

18.Kxg2Nd5-+]

**1.g4 d5**                    **2.Bg2 e5**  
**3.h3 Nc6**                   **4.d3 Bb4+**

This is an interesting idea, White usually plays c4 attacking d4 to get more scope for the light colored bishop.

[4...Be6                    5.Nc3 Bb4=]

**5.c3 Be7**                   **6.Nf3**

[More in the spirit of the Grob is:  
6.f3 b3 f6                   7.g5 h5 8.¥xd5  
0-0=]

**6...Be6**                    **7.0-0?!**

Due to the unusual pawn structure White attains by playing g4 and then attacking d5, there is frequently little advantage to castling. In this case, it's suicide.

**7...Qd7** [The usual way to play against the Grob is to attack the weakness White created on move one. 7...h5!                   8.g5                   ♔d7=]

**8.Ng5 Bxg 5**                   **9.Bxg5 h5!**

...exploiting the Grob hook at g4 and exposing the white king.

**10.f3 f6**                    **11.Be3 Nge7**

...Black continues to develop, the weakness at g4 will remain.

**12.b4**

[12.g5? Bxh3]

**12...d4**                    **13.cxd4 hxg4**

[13...exd4                   14.Bd2 hxg4

**15.Bxd5**  
[15.dxe5 Nxe5                   16.Bf4 Bxg2  
17.Kxg2 Nd5-+]

**15...Nxd5!**  
Black is simply winning.

**16.Bd2 Rxb3**                   **17.e4 0-0-0**

[Also very good for Black is  
17...Nxd4!!                   18.exd5

(18.Na3 Rxd3)  
18...Qxd5 and White can resign.]

**18.exd5 Qxd5**                   **19.Nc3 Qxd4+**

[Mate on five starting with  
19...Qh1+                   20.Kf2 Qh2+  
21.Ke1 Qg3+                   22.Rf2 Rh1+  
23.Ke2 Nxd4#]

**20.Rf2 Rh1+**  
[20...Rg3+ 21.Kf1 Rh8 and mate in 8]

**21.Kg2 Rxd1**  
[Rybka 2.2 32-bit:  
21...Rh2+                   22.Kxh2 Qxf2+

23.Kh3 Rxd3+                   24.Be3 Rxe3+  
25.Qf3 Rxf3#]

**22.Rxd1 Qxg4+23.Kh1 Rxd3**  
**24.Rdf1 Qh3+** and mate in 2.

**0-1**

**1.d4** I make my standard queen's pawn opening in this, my first round game of the 38<sup>th</sup> Southern Congress (U1600) tournament. Being the second year I have played in this tournament, I have nothing but good memories from my experiences at the Atlanta Chess Center.

**1...Nf6** (along with 1...d5) the most popular and solid response.

**2.Nf3** I have developed a taste for this move at this point. As a 1.d4 player, I am quite accustomed to reaching most of the standard QGA and QGD positions, and like to develop with a protective move such as this early. This is because I am more than willing to play Qa4+  
**2...g6** My opponent opts for a King's Indian set up. I expect that his next 3 moves will be Bb7, 0-0, and d6.

**3.c4** Natural. White lays a claim on d5 while clearing c3 for the Nb1. **3...Bg7** For Black, the dark squared bishop is one of the most powerful elements of the KID, and its natural home is on the long diagonal.

**4.Nc3** As Black is giving me all the time in the world to load up in the center, I do so. The main danger for White is that Black is preparing a potent counterpunch once the opening phase ends, as the KID is quite a versatile defense (Fischer used it frequently). **4...0-0** Black secures his king rapidly, and prepares to develop his queenside.

**5.e4** Staying with the "book" I continue to exert influence in the center with strong developing

**Gilbreath, T (1402) – Jaffe, M (1435)**

moves. **5...d6** Black has a “book” as well, and clears a line for his Bc8 while setting up a solid defensive position in the center. This whole opening so far is the classical line of the King’s Indian Defense.

**6.Be2** Standard play by White as well. Both sides now have excellent chances of reaching the middlegame fully developed, castled, and with fighting chances.

**6...Re8?!** Black takes the first step off of the page by making this move. 6...e5 is the classical continuation. I suppose he was anticipating a big blast through the center, and wanted to support it.

**7.0-0** Sticking with the classical plan. **7...a6?** This move totally lost me. I have no idea what my opponent was trying to accomplish here. I was sure he would have played e5 here. I consider this move a tempo loser.

**8.h3** I felt that since I had the free tempo I would restrict my opponent’s light squared bishop, thereby keeping my Nf3 free to explore. **8...Bd7** Black again declines playing e5. I’m beginning to wonder if he is some sort of KID genius and I’m severely overestimating my position. I realize that at this point that if I can push d5 should he ever play e5 I will have severely crippled his developing chances.

**9.Be3** ...last piece developed. **9...e5** Black finally puts a move on the center. Delaying this move is about to get punished.

**10.d5** Taking c6 away from Black’s ♖b8, freeing up a lane for my Be3, and weakening my opponent’s strong Bg7. A multi-purpose move. **10...Nh5** I guess Black was hoping to launch f5 or perhaps play Nf4.

**11.Qd2** Connecting the white rooks and double tapping the f4 square. **11...Bh8?** I got the feeling

that Black was really playing off of his heels here. My best guess was that he feared g4 and wanted to create an escape square for his Nh5. One of the main strengths of Black’s position in the KID is his strong castled position, and my opponent is voluntarily weakening it for me.

**12.Ng5** As White’s pieces are coordinating for an assault on the enemy king, I play Ng5 with malicious intent. I am now seeking sacrifice opportunities to further strip my opponent’s defenses. I feel that it is fairly safe to entertain these ideas as Black is underdeveloped and his pieces are not nearly as coordinated as mine. **12...Ng7** Now I am convinced that Black intends to play f5 to free up his position. So...

**13.f4** I shoot to open up the f file first while giving my opponent yet another skirmish to consider.

**13...f6?** Black must really fear my Ng5. I was convinced he would play exf or f5 here.

**14.f5!** **14...gxf5** Black obviously sees the danger of taking out my knight, and gets what he can. The drawback is that he is assisting my goal of depleting his king’s defense.

**15.exf5** Regaining equality, maintaining the “gambit” ♟g5, and opening up e4 for my ♖c3 to hop to. **15...Nxf5** Black once again fights for some sort of initiative by picking up the f pawn. He is valiantly trying to thwart my attack and get his pieces into the game.

**16.Bd3!** Another move that just made me want to cackle gleefully like a mad scientist. Black’s ♟f5 is now pinned to the h pawn, and the real estate around the black king is way below market value.

**16...Nxe3** Black’s kamikaze knight just crashed. 16...fxN still presents Black the problem it did

back at move 12. Time for the fun to begin.

**17.Bxh7+** A very pretty check, as the bishop is being supported by the knight *en prise*. Black’s castled position is now crumbling move by move.

**17...Kg7** I had anticipated 17...♟f8, but I guess he figured I owned the f file.

**18.Qxe3** Regaining the piece and looking to get to g6. **18...Rf8** 18...fxN 19.Qe4 and Black tiptoes through the minefield of light squares. **19.Re4** ...staying on the light squares while protecting the Bh7. **19...f5** ...trying desperately to repel the invader. **20.Qh4** ...protects both pieces and now seeks a violent check once the Bh7 is moved. **20...Rf6** Black scrambles to protect his king from the front.

**21.Bxf5** h7 is now fully in play and any exchanges on the f file will be won by White. **21...Rh6** –a last ditch effort.

**22.Ne6+!** Black resigned as capturing the offending knight drops his queen. **1-0**

While my overall score at the 38<sup>th</sup> Southern Congress wasn’t spectacular (2.5/5 with one win, one draw, two losses and a full point bye) I was very pleased with my play in this game. The idea of 14.f5 leaving a piece *en prise* for so long was the sort of tactic that so rarely comes my way.

My opponent was quite gracious in defeat, and we discussed the game afterwards. It was agreed that his lack of proper development after such a strong opening was the determining factor in this game. Notice that his ♗a8, ♖b8, and queen never left their original squares. Many thanks to Marshall J. for the game, and I hope *you* enjoyed reading this annotation.

:) —Thomas Gilbreath

**2007 BIRMINGHAM TORNADO**  
**Vestavia Hills, AL**  
**November 3, 2007**

by Caesar Lawrence

The Birmingham Chess Club hosted the “2007 Birmingham Tornado” at the Birmingham Bridge Club in Vestavia Hills. The tournament drew 9 players in the Open section and 27 players in the Amateur section. While several players drove in from out of state, the large number of young players (which swelled the Amateur section) may indicate an increased local interest in chess.

We thank all the chess coaches, James Garner, Dr. Rose Marie Stutts, Balagee Govindan, Charles Smith, and particularly Richard and Kay Ellis (both officers of the Birmingham Chess Club) for their leadership and guidance. We also thank the parents who work with local schools to make chess available in the metro Birmingham area.

**OPEN Section**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4 pts

Frank Johnson (Atlanta, GA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 3 pts

Bradley Denton (Hernando, MS)

1<sup>st</sup> Place U1800: 2.5 pts

Jeffrey Byrd (Birmingham)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place U1800: 2 pts

Cesar Ventura (Atlanta, GA),

Curtis Barkley (Huntsville) &

Josh McClellan (Huntsville)

**AMATEUR Section**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4 pts

Stephen Adams (Birmingham)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 3.5 pts

Eleanor Barkley (Huntsville)

U1400: 3 pts

Balagee Govindan &

Waymon Benifield

(both from Birmingham)

*Let's Play Chess...Caesar Lawrence*

**Malmborg, Walter (1740) -**  
**Barkley, Curtis (1520)**  
 HCCCC (3) 14.05.2007  
 [A00] annotation by Curtis  
 Barkley

**1.g4 c5 2. Bg2 d5**

The most popular reply is 2...Nc6

**3.c4 e6 4.d3 Nc6**

**5.cxd5 exd5 6.h3 h6**

**7.Nc3 Nf6 8.g5 hxg5**

**9.Bxg5 d4 10.Nd5 Be7**

**11.Nxe7 Qxe7 12.Nf3 Qd6**

**13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Qc2 b6**

**15.Bh4 Nh5 16.a3 Rc8**



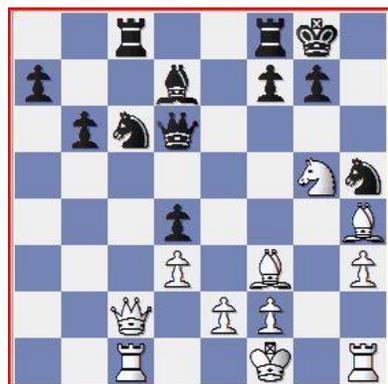
An interesting variation is

**16...f6!? 17.Qc4 g5**

**18.Nxg5 fxc5 19.Bxg5 Ne5**

**20.b4? cxb4! 21.axb4 Qxb4+**

**22.Kf1 Qd6 23.Ng5 0-0 24.Bf3**



**24. ΔNb4**

[21...Qf4 22.Bxh5 Ne5 (22...Qxh4  
 23.Bxf7+ Rxf7 24.Nxf7 Rf8 25.Kg1  
 Rxf7) 23.Bg4 Nxg4 24.hxg4 Qxc1+  
 25.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 26.Kg2]

**22.Qb2 Rxc1+ 23.Qxc1 Nf6**

**24.Qa3 a5 25.Bg3 Qc5**

**26.Kg2?? Qxg5 27.h4 Qf5**

**28.h5 Rc8 29.h6 Bc6**

**30.hxg7 Kxg7 31.Bxc6 Rxc6**

**32.Qa1 Rc2 33.Qg1**

(33.Qxd4 Qd5+34.Qxd5 Nbx d5)

**33...Rxe2 34.Kf1 Re6?**

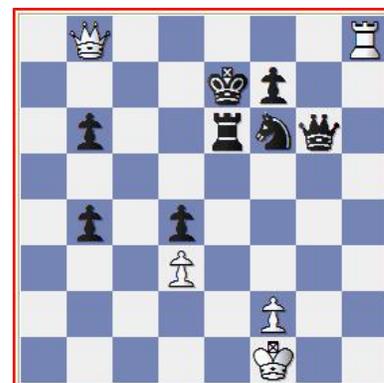
(34...Ng4!! 35.Kxe2 Qxd3+

36.Ke1 Nc2#)

**35.Be5+ Qg6 36.Qh2 Kf8**

**37.Bd6+ Ke8 38.Bxb4 axb4**

**39.Qb8+ Ke7 40.Rh8**



**40...Qxd3+ 41.Kg2 Qe4+**

**42.Kf1 Rd6 43.Qf8+ [43.Qc7+**

Ke6 44.Qc4+ Rd5 45.Qc6+ Rd6

46.Qc4+ Nd5 (46...Qd5)]

**43...Ke6 44.Qc8+ Kd5**

**45.Qb7+ Kc4 46.Qa6+ Kb3**

**47.Rh3+ d3 48.Qa1 Kc2**

Due to the time scramble, I stopped recording, so the next few queen moves may be out of order, but the final position is correct.

**49.Qa4+ Kc3 50.Qa2 b3**

**51.Qa3 Kc2 52.Qa1 b2**

**53.Qa2 b5 54.Re3 Qh1# 0-1**

**Melvin, Bill (2200) -**  
**Savoie, Bill (1688)**

HCCCC (3) 14.05.2007

[B47] annotation by Bill Savoie

**1.e4 c5 ...no French here!**

**2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 e6**

**ANNOTATED GAMES**  
**FROM THE**  
**2007 HUNTSVILLE CHESS**

4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7  
 6.Ndb5 Qb8 7.Be3 a6  
 8.Bb6 axb5 9.Nxb5 Bb4+  
 10.c3 Ba5 11.Nc7+ Qxc7

...Recommended by the book  
*The Safest Sicilian*  
 by Delchev and Semkov

12.Bxc7 Bxc7

13. Bb5?!

[13.Qg4 Be5! 14.f4 Nf6!  
 15.Qf3  
 (15. fxcg7? 15...Rg8  
 16.Qh6 Rg6 17.Qh4 Rg4  
 18.Qh6 Rxf4 19.Bd3 Rf2!)  
 15...Bc7 16.Bd3  
 (16.e5 Nd5 17.Bc4 Nce7  
 18.Bb3 0-0 19.0-0 b5  
 20.Bc2 Bb7=)  
 16...e5!? 17.f5 0-0  
 18.g4 d5 19.g5 dxe4  
 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 g6]

13...Nf6 14.f3 0-0

15.0-0 Rd8!? 16.Qe1 d5 17.a4  
 dxe4 18.fxe4 Ne5

19.h3 Bd7!? 20.Qe2 Bxb5

21.Qxb5 b6 22.Rad1 Nxe4!?

23.a5 Rdb8 24.a6 f6 25.Rde1  
 Nd6 26.Qb3 Ndc4

27.Qa2 Rd8!?

28.Rd1 Bd6 29.b4 b5 30.Ra1

Rd7 31.Qe2 Rda7 32.Qh5 Bc7

33.Ra2 Bb6+ 34.Kh1 Rd7!?

35.Qe2 Rad8 36. Rfa1 Ba7

37.Be4 Rd5!? 38.g4 g6 39.h4 Kf7

40.h5 Nxg4?

41.hxg6+?

[41.Qxg4! Here White can't lose. The  
 best Black can do is draw!

41...Rhx5+? 42.Rh2 Rdd5  
 43. Raa2! Ne3--+ 44.Rhx5  
 (44...Nxg4 45.Rhx7+ Kg8  
 46.Rxa7 Rd1+ 47.Kg2 Ne3+  
 48.Kf3 Nd5 49.Ra8+ Kf7  
 50.a7 Rd3+ 51.Ke2 Rxc3  
 52.Rf8+ Kxf8 53.a8=Q+  
 and White wins)  
 (44... Rxh5+ 45.Qxh5 gxh5  
 46.Ra5 Bb6 47.Rxb5 Nc4  
 48.Rc5 Bxc5 49.bxc5+--  
 and White wins)

41...Ne3 42.hxg6+ hxg6  
 43.Qf3 (43.Qe2 Rh8+ 44.Kg1 Rg5+

45.Kf2 Rh2+--+ and Black wins)  
 43...Rh5+ 44.Rh2 (44.Kg1  
 Rdd5 45.Rf2 Rdg5+--+  
 and Black wins)  
 44...Rdd5 45.Rxh5 Rxh5+  
 46.Kg1 Nc2+ 47.Kg2 Rg5+  
 Draw by move repetition.]

41...hxg6 42. c g 2 ? [42. fxcg4!

Still a good move!

42...Ne3  
 (42...Rh8+ 43. h2 |hx2+  
 44.Kxh2 Rh5+ 45. cg3 |g5  
 46.Qxg5 fxg5 47. |h1  
 (47.Rf1+ Ke7 48. cg4 ce3+!+-)  
 47...Kg7 48.Rd1 Ne5  
 49.Rd8 Kf6 50.Rc8 Bb6  
 51.Rb8 Ba7 52.Rb7 Nc6  
 53.Rxb5 e5 54.Rb7 Bb8  
 55.b5 e4+ 56.Rxb8 Nxb8  
 57.a7+- and White wins)

43.Qf3 Rh8+ 44.Rh2 Rxh2+  
 45.Kxh2 Rh5+ 46.Kg1 Rg5+  
 Black can force a draw]

42...f5 43.Qe1 Rh8 44.Qg3 e5

45.Re2 Rh2+ 46.Qxh2 Nxb2

47.Kxh2 Rd3 48.Rc1 e4 49.Ree1

Ne5 50.Rc2?? Nf3+ 51.Kg2??

Nxe1+ 52.Kf1 Nxc2 53.Kg2 Rd2+

54.Kf1 e3 55.c4 e2+

56.Kg2 e1=Q+ 57.Kf3 Rf2+

58.Kg3 Qe3+ 59.Kh4 Rh2# 0-1

Black to mate.



White to win.

White to draw.

White to mate.

White to win.



**We desperately need your submittals for the next issues of Antics & ChessKids Antics! Please send your games (with or w/o annotation), reports, photos, and announcements to [editor@alabamachess.com](mailto:editor@alabamachess.com)**

Antics  
P.O. Box 7561  
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Postage

December 2007

*Mark your calendar*  
**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> ACF Inc.**  
**Special**  
**Business Meeting**

***January***  
***12-13***

**Gulf Coast Chess Championship** Mobile Gas Auditorium [www.teachmechess.com](http://www.teachmechess.com) (Teach Me Chess Club)

**Info:** Keenan Olson, cell: (251) 623-2228, e-mail: [PawnsAreTasty@teachmechess.com](mailto:PawnsAreTasty@teachmechess.com)

5-Swiss G/100 (G/95 w/5 second digital delay) Tie Breaks: G/5 RR w/o delay

USCF & ACF Inc. membership (*required*), may be purchased on site.

Prizes for each section include a purse of **\$765** based on 25 participants.

<i>Also site of</i> <b>Jan. 13<sup>th</sup></b> <b>ACF Inc.</b> <b>Special</b> <b>Business</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>Open</b>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>U2000 &amp; T</u>	<u>U1900 &amp; T</u>	<u>U1800 &amp; T</u>
	<b>Reserve U1600</b>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; T</u>	<u>U1400 &amp; T</u>	<u>U1300 &amp; T</u>	<u>U1200 &amp; T /unrated</u>
		\$175	\$130	\$100	\$120	\$120	\$120

EF: \$37 by Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, \$45 @ site 8:00-9:00 *morning of*  
Rounds-Sat: **(1)**9:30, **(2)**2:20, **(3)**6:40 Sun: **(4)**9:00, (ACF Inc. Business Mtg)12:30, **(5)**1:45

**January Tornado** Birmingham (Alta Vista Hotel/Conference Ctr) **Phoenix Chess Club**

**January**  
**19**

**Info:** [Caesar.Lawrence@juno.com](mailto:Caesar.Lawrence@juno.com) or (334) 868-0271

4SS, TC: G/60, **OSA**, \$\$b/30:

**OPEN** \$125-100, u1800 \$75-40. **AMATEUR** (u1600): \$100-75, u1400 \$60-30.

EF: \$25 by Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, \$35 @ site 9:00-9:30 *morning of* Rds.: 9:30, 11:45, 2, 4:15.

*36<sup>th</sup> Annual* **Queen of Hearts** – AUM Taylor Center, Montgomery (**Montgomery Chess Club**)

**February**  
**16-17**

**Info:** [Caesar.Lawrence@juno.com](mailto:Caesar.Lawrence@juno.com) or (334) 868-0271

5SS, TC: 30/90; SD: 30. \$\$b/40.

**Open** (All): \$300+T, \$200, \$150, A \$150+T, U1800 \$100+T.

**Reserve** (U1600): \$200+T, \$125, D \$125+T, U1200 \$100+T, \$50.

Proof of USCF & ACF Inc. membership *required*

Pre-Registration preferred: \$40 by Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, \$50 morning of: 7:45-8:30

Rounds-Sat: **(1)**9:00, **(2)**2:00, **(3)**7:00 Sun: **(4)**9:00, (ACF Inc. Business Mtg)~12:00, **(5)**3:00

*Also site of*  
Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>  
ACF Inc.  
Business  
Meeting